

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 229022 TOSEC 270193

FOR LORD ONLY FROM BARTHOLOMEW

E.O. 11652, GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: YAF LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

1. WE RECEIVED TODAY COPY OF SEPTEMBER 2 LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT SIGNED BY FRANK J. DONATELLI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, YOUNG AMERICANS FOR FREEDOM. LETTER (BELOW) WAS RECEIVED BY PA FROM WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE OFFICE, IN ROUTINE TRANSMITTAL. IT WAS BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION BY EUR/SOV TO WHOM PA TURNED FOR APPROVED LANGUAGE FOR RESPONSE. WHEN PUBLIC MAIL COMES TO DEPARTMENT IN THIS CHANNEL, USUAL PROCEDURE IS TO ANSWER ON BEHALF OF WHITE HOUSE OVER REINHART SIGNATURE USING STANDARD LANGUAGE. WHEN CLEARED LANGUAGE DOES NOT ALREADY EXIST, PA TURNS TO RELEVANT BUREAUS TO DEVELOP RESPONSE. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER TRANSMITTAL OF LETTER TO DEPARTMENT FROM WHITE HOUSE IN THIS CHANNEL WAS ROUTINE DECISION TAKEN AT ROUTINE LEVELS OR WHETHER IT REFLECTS SPECIFIC DECISION TO KICK THE BALL TO US. THE FIRST SEEMS MORE LIKELY, BUT THERE IS NO WAY TO DETERMINE THIS WITHOUT CHECKING, WHICH I DO NOT THINK WE
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SHOULD DO.

2. I SEE TWO OPTIONS. THE FIRST, AS ALWAYS, IS TO DO NOTHING. LETTER WAS SENT TO DEPARTMENT WITHOUT SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR ACTION AND WE COULD SIMPLY NOT RESPOND, WHICH ACCORDING TO BLAIR (PA) IS TACK FAIRLY OFTEN TAKEN. BUT YAF COULD BE EXPECTED TO WRITE AGAIN TO PRESIDENT/WHITE HOUSE AND COMPLAIN OF LACK OF RESPONSE PUBLICLY. AND WE IN ANY CASE FACE POSSIBILITY OF OTHER QUERIES FOR WHICH STOCK REPLY WOULD BE USEFUL.

3. SECOND ALTERNATIVE IS TO GIVE PA LANGUAGE FOR USE IN THIS AND SIMILAR QUERIES, DRAWING ON PRESS SPOKESMAN STATEMENT, AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE...YOUR SEPTEMBER 2 LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT CONCERNING MR. ALEXANDER SOLZHENITSYN HAS BEEN REFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. THE COMMENTS YOU REFER TO WERE CONTAINED IN A PRESS REPORT WHICH REFLECTS AN INACCURATE ACCOUNT OF AN INFORMAL MEETING WHICH MR. WINSTON LORD HELD IN AUGUST WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S SUMMER INTERNS, FOR WHICH NO TRANSCRIPT WAS KEPT. AT NO POINT DURING THE MEETING DID MR. LORD DESCRIBE MR. SOLZHENITSYN AS A "FASCIST". HE DID INDICATE THAT HE ADMIRER MR. SOLZHENITSYN FOR HIS INTELLECTUAL AND HUMAN QUALITIES THOUGH HE DID DISAGREE WITH SOME OF HIS VIEWS ON OUR RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. END QUOTE. RECOGNIZE THAT YOU HAVE MATERIAL WITH YOU TO DO YOUR OWN VERSION. BUT BLAND AS THIS OR ANY VERSION IS, IT WOULD GIVE YAF SOMETHING THEY CAN TRY TO USE TO KEEP THEIR POT BOILING. AND THEY COULD TRY TO MAKE SOMETHING OF STATE RATHER THAN WHITE HOUSE RESPONSE TO THEIR LETTER.

4. SECOND ALTERNATIVE IS LOW-KEY, PA RESPONSE WHICH DOESN'T GO BEYOND OR EVEN AS FAR AS WHAT IS ALREADY ON PUBLIC RECORD BY PRESS SPOKESMAN. AND I THINK YOU WILL IN ANY CASE BE ANSWERING AT LEAST SOME MAIL ON THIS QUESTION. BUT I THINK THAT FIRST OPTION OF DOING NOTHING IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE COULD HELP MATTER DIE AN EVEN SWIFTER DEATH THAN IT IS.

5. WE WILL DO NOTHING UNTIL WE HEAR FROM YOU. I DO NOT THINK WE ARE UNDER ANY IMMEDIATE TIME PRESSURE TO
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RESPOND OR NOT. AS A REMINDER, YOU WILL ALSO WANT TO CONSIDER CONNECTION BETWEEN THIS YAF LETTER AND THAT TO SENATOR THURMOND.

6. QUOTE

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

THE MEMBERS OF YOUNG AMERICANS FOR FREEDOM ARE SHOCKED AND DISTURBED BY THE COMMENTS REGARDING ALEKSANDR SOLZHENITSYN ATTRIBUTED TO MR. WINSTON LORD OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT. MR. LORD REPORTEDLY REFERRED TO MR. SOLZHENITSYN AS "JUST ABOUT A FASCIST".

WE FEEL THAT SOLZHENITSYN IS A GREAT SYMBOL OF THE SUFFERING AND OPPRESSION CAUSED BY SOVIET TYRANNY. HIS WORDS ARE A BEACON OF HOPE TO PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD STRUGGLING TO FREE THEMSELVES AND OTHERS FROM TOTALITARIANISM. HE HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED AS SUCH A SYMBOL BY LOVERS OF FREEDOM AROUND THE WORLD, AND EVEN THE PLATFORM ON WHICH YOU NOW RUN FOR OFFICE ACCLAIMS HIS MORAL STANDING.

FOR THESE REASONS, THE CONTINUED INSULTS TO SOLZHENITSYN FROM YOUR ADMINISTRATION ARE APPALLING. TO PLACE A VAIN BELIEF IN DETENTE ABOVE OUR LOVE OF FREEDOM IS AN AFFRONT TO EVERYTHING THE UNITED STATES STANDS FOR. SOLZHENITSYN SHOULD BE HAILED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AS BOTH A GREAT WRITER AND AN OUTSTANDING SYMBOL OF MAN'S UNQUENCHABLE DESIRE FOR LIBERTY.

YOUR FAILURE TO DO SO, ALONG WITH THE INCREDIBLE REMARKS FROM ONE OF YOUR CHIEF FOREIGN-POLICY PLANNERS, CONTINUE TO MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR YOUNG CONSERVATIVES TO BECOME ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE THIS FALL.

WE CALL UPON YOU TO DISAVOW TOTALLY THE STATEMENTS OF MR. LORD. AT THE VERY LEAST, WE FEEL THAT HE SHOULD RECEIVE A PUBLIC REPRIMAND. WE ALSO URGE YOU TO RE-EXAMINE SOLZHENITSYN'S REMARKS ON DETENTE AND TO TAKE SUCH ACTIONS AS ARE NECESSARY TO REVERSE THE ONE-SIDED

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RESULTS OF THIS RELATIONSHIP.

YOURS VERY TRULY, UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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